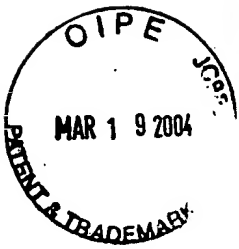


Image



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/864,873
Applicant : John J. ROSSI et al.
Filed : May 25, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1635
Examiner : Karen A. Lacourciere

Docket No. : 1954-330
Customer No. : 06449
Confirmation No. : 2281

Director of the United States Patent
and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO
DECEMBER 19, 2003 OFFICE ACTION**

Dear Sir:

This communication is submitted in response to the December 19, 2003 Final Office Action issued in connection with the above-referenced application. A response to the Office Action is due by March 19, 2004, and thus this response has been timely filed.

Remarks begin on page 2.